

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

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The above-mentioned method is one of the embodiments of the invention and the value n and m are not limited ~~to 256 and 4 respectively~~ to 4 and 256 respectively. The value m, which stands for the gray level range and the heating durations, and the value n, which stands for the division number of the heating durations, can be set according to design requirements. Additionally, the method for distributing the heating initiation times is not limited to an evenly distributed time sequence. The method of jumping in time sequence for different printing effects can be applied in the present invention. For example, when the pixel acquires a gray level equaling 1, the corresponding heater 22 is activated one time for duration T_u after the preheating operation, and the heating initiation time is on the time point 64 instead of the time point 0.

20 The emphasis of the present invention is to distribute the heating initiation times instead of centralizing the heating initiation times in the conventional technique. Therefore, all the distributing methods of the heating initiation times are covered by the present

25 invention.